(000 tonnes)

Year	Allotment	Offtake	% Offtake
2005-06	Rice-5.739	2.447	42.6
2006-07	Rice-6.108	3.940	64.5
2007-08 (upto September)	Rice-3.054	2.496	81.7

Distribution of substandard ration to card holders in Goa

1202. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether instances of distribution of substandard rice, wheat and other essential commodities to the card-holders in Goa, came to the light;

(b) the reasons for fair price shops getting substandard foodgrains from Government;

(c) whether Government has investigated into the matter;

(d) whether there was any communication between Government and the Goa Administration in this matter;

(e) whether the remedial steps have been taken in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Question does not arise.

Warehousing facilities to farmers

1203. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state what possible steps Government is undertaking to provide proper warehousing facilities to farmers, so as to avoid the post harvest losses of the produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): Primarily, there are three Government agencies *i.e.* Central Warehousing Corporation, Food Corporation of India and State Warehousing Corporations which are engaged in building storage/warehousing capacities for foodgrains which provides scientific storage facilities to avoid post harvest losses of the produce.

The Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) is having adequate warehousing facilities throughout the country for storage of foodgrains to avoid the post harvest losses of the produces of the farmers. As on 01.10.2007, it had 498 Nos. of General Warehouses having total average capacity of 100.50 lakh MT and the average utilization of 77.70 lakh MT. The total foodgrains stored in the warehouses of CWC were 25.68 lakh MT. CWC offers a rebate of 30% in storage charges to the bona-fied farmers. It has launched Farmers Extension Service Scheme (FESS)

since 1978-79 to educate farmer about the benefit of Scientific storage and use of public warehouses and is also imparting training to the farmers on the techniques of scientific storage and preservation of foodgrains so that storage losses at their level are minimized and demonstrates the spraying and fumigations methods to farmers to control insects and rodents.

Although the FCI does not provide warehousing facilities directly to the farmers yet, it constructs storage capacity at nodal points to manage the procured foodgrains stocks on central pool account. Concerned State Governments also construct godowns to provide warehousing facilities to the farmers at village, block, district and taluq level.

The FCI holds adequate storage capacity all over the country. As on 1.11.2007, total capacity held by the FCI is 239.67 lakh MT (151.47 lakh tonnes owned and 88.20 lakh tonnes hired from various agencies) which is sufficient at macro level. For micro level, space requirement, FCI has proposed to the Government of India for construction of about 4.00 lakh tonnes capacity in various States including the newly declared procurement States during the Eleventh Five Year Plan to successfully manage the procurements/maintenance of adequate stocks for supplies in the Public Distribution System and other schemes.

Besides above, another scheme for construction of rural godowns for providing storage facilities in rural areas monitored by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation known as "Gramin Bhandaran Yojana" is also existing to enable farmers to enhance their holding capacity to sell their produce at remunerative price. Government is providing subsidy @25% of the capital cost of the project. A higher subsidy of 33.33% of the capital cost is provided for beneficiaries belonging to SC/ST categories and for North Eastern States and Hilly areas. Till 2007, a total of 17,099 rural godowns project with a total capacity of 200.96 lakh tonnes having subsidy component of Rs. 577.00 crores have been sanctioned in the country.

Under the National Policy of handling Storage and Transportation of Foodgrains announced in June, 2000, private sector is being encouraged to build bulk storage capacities as per latest technology for storing foodgrains procured by Government agencies which will lead to reduction in storage transit losses and ultimately benefit the farmers. Storage capacity to the tune of 5.5 lakh M.T. is presently being created under Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis in the country.

Diversion of ration by Fair Price Shops

1204. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether 36 per cent of wheat, 31 per cent of rice and 26 per cent of sugar meant for Public Distribution System (PDS) are diverted to the open market by Fair Price Shops;

(b) if so, the measures taken to check diversion of rationed wheat, rice and sugar into the open market; and

(c) the number of FPS owners in Delhi booked for diversion of food grains etc. during the last three years, Circle-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Diversion of 36% wheat, 31% rice and 23% sugar under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was reported by Tata Economic Consultancy Services in 1998 in its study report on the TPDS. This study covered the period 1997-98.